

Southeastern United States

Screw-worm Over-wintering Survey - March 14-21, 1955

C. C. Skipper

A final survey in the State of Florida to determine the northern limits of screw-worm activity during the late winter was conducted from March 14 through March 21, 1955.

Inquiries were made of some dealers in remedies, veterinarians, County Agents, State Livestock Board employees, working as inspectors of livestock at auction sales barns, but mostly by contacting livestock owners and raisers.

Because of the extremely cold weather during the last winter it was suspected that the overwintering line might be very far down the state this year, consequently the survey was started at Orlando, Florida. Working east along Florida Highway 50 contacts were made to the Atlantic Coast. The only screw-worm activity reported was by Mr. J. Brown, an Angus breeder 6 miles east of Orlando who reported having three infestations in young calves on March 10. Since he had no other infestations since last fall it was considered possible that these had been caused by flies that had migrated from the South, consequently scouting was moved down to Kissimmee. Working S.E. along U.S. 441 we could get reports of no infestations until we contacted Mr. Henry O. Partin whose ranch lies South of St. Cloud. Mr. Partin is a very large operator (& member of Florida Livestock Board). He reported that his cowboys had been finding quite a few infestations recently and that they had been finding one, occasionally, most all spring. Therefore, it was concluded that about here was the line so far.

The next report of an infestation was from Mr. P. E. Williams whose ranch lies Northwest of Davenport, Florida. They had had an infestation in a calf early in January. We were not surprised since the first two weeks in January were quite warm and it had not been cold long enough for screw-worm fly pupae to perish since the last warm weather in November. Mr. Williams stated their next infestations were just last week, when they had two more infestations in calves. No other reports could be found in that area.

At a livestock sale at Lakeland, Florida, March 15, livestock owners were contacted from Hardee, Polk, Lake, Highlands and Hillsboro counties. At no time could we get a report of screw-worm activity north of the parallel of Bartow, Florida. Work on in Hillsboro County seemed to verify that line.

Screw-worm Overwintering Survey - March 11-21, 1955
D. C. Skipper

A final survey in the State of Florida to determine the northern limits of screw-worm activity during the late winter was conducted from March 11 through March 21, 1955.

Indigines were made of some dealers in remedies, veterinarians, County Agents, State Livestock Board employees, working as inspectors of Livestock at auction sales barns, but mostly by contacting livestock owners and raisers.

Because of the extremely cold weather during the last winter it was expected that the overwintering line might be very far down the state this year, consequently the survey was started at Orlando, Florida. Working east along Florida Highway 50 contacts were made to the Atlantic Coast. The only screw-worm activity reported was by Mr. J. Brown, an Angus breeder 6 miles east of Orlando who reported having three infestations in young calves on March 10. Since he had no other infestations since last fall it was considered possible that these had been caused by flies that had migrated from the South, consequently scouting was moved down to Kissimmee. Working S.E. along U.S. 441 we could get reports of no infestations until we contacted Mr. Henry O. Partin whose ranch lies South of St. Cloud. Mr. Partin is a very large operator (a member of Florida Livestock Board). He reported that his cowboys had been finding quite a few infestations recently and that they had been finding one, occasionally, most all spring. Therefore, it was concluded that about here was the line so far.

The next report of an infestation was from Mr. P. E. Williams whose ranch lies Northwest of Ocala, Florida. They had had an infestation in a calf early in January. We were not surprised since the first two weeks in January were quite warm and it had not been cold long enough for screw-worm fly pupae to perish since the last warm weather in November. Mr. Williams stated their next infestation was just last week, when they had two more infestations in calves. No other reports could be found in that area.

At a livestock sale at Lakeland, Florida, March 15, livestock owners were contacted from Hardee, Volusia, Lake, Highlands and Hillsboro counties. At no time could we get a report of screw-worm activity nor of the parallel of Bartow, Florida. Work on the Hillsboro County area to verify that line.

Apparently having established the over-wintering line, we thought best to move up the state and do some more checking. Since Mr. New had established a line of activity during January as being about on the Gainesville parrallel we thought it might be a good idea to see what the situation was there now.

Here is what we found:

In St. Johns County Mr. Ross, who looks after the feeding and seems to be in charge generally on the Wolfe Brangus Ranch, reported no screw-worm activity since the last frost which he said was 4 weeks ago or about February 18.

The next report was by Mr. Crews a livestock inspector for the Florida Livestock Board who stated that Mr. J. V. Edwards of the Tung Oil Corp. Brooker, Bradford Co. Fla. stated last week that he had had an infestation in a young calf.

Just above LaCrosse, Alachua Co. Fla. on the C. Cellon farm, Mr. Ray Cathran, in charge of livestock, reported an infestation in a cow's eye just last week.

At a livestock sale at Ocala, Marion Co., Florida livestock men were contacted from Marion, Lake, Levy and Citrus Counties.

In Citrus County Mr. Emory Cowart, whose ranch is about 6 miles South west of Dunellon reported several infestations in navels of young calves within the last two weeks. Mr. H. A. Rooks, Inverness, Fla. reported navel infestations in calves last week.

In Levy County the only report I could get was of that in a goat that died in early February from screw-worm infestations. This goat was owned by Mr. J. W. Smith, Williston, Florida

Because of the long and continued cold this past winter there is the lowest screw-worm fly population in the state since the spring of 1951. However, the first two weeks in January were warm enough to permit the emergence of screw-worms flies and that must be the reason for their occasional appearance as far north as they are.

It appears to us that the line established by Mr. W. D. New in January is about where we should say the overwintering line for this 1955 is.

T. C. Skipper

